

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 /034 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:CMONROE
APPROVED BY NEA/ARN-MR. HOWELL
EB/OA-J ROBERTS (PHONE)
EB/OA-W RILEY (PHONE)
-----040826 310213Z /64/73
R 202231Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

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E.O. 11652: N/A (DECONTROL 30 DAYS)

TAGS: EAIR, BDIS, SY, US

SUBJECT: NORTHWEST AIRLINES: PROBLEMS WITH SAA

1. REPRESENTATIVE FROM NORTHWEST AIRLINES CALLED DEPARTMENT ON 3/16 TO INFORM US OF TICKETING/PAYMENTS PROBLEM WITH SYRIAN ARAB AIRLINES (SAA). BACKGROUND: IN JANUARY 1977, NORTHWEST STOPPED HONORING COUPONS (TICKETS) ISSUED IN SYRIA BY SAA FOR PASSAGE ON NORTHWEST FLIGHTS IN U.S. ACTION WAS TAKEN IN RESPONSE TO LACK OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT/PAYMENT BY SAA OF BILLS SENT BY NORTHWEST FOR REIMBURSEMENT FOR ACCUMULATING BALANCES. NORTHWEST SUBSEQUENTLY INFORMED SAA THAT IT WOULD NO LONGER HONOR TICKETS WHICH WERE ISSUED IN SYRIA FOR TRAVEL IN U.S. ON NORTHWEST FLIGHTS. THIS NOTIFICATION WAS NEVER ACKNOWLEDGED BY SAA EITHER.

2. IN MEANTIME, SAA HAS CONTINUED TO SELL TICKETS IN SYRIA FOR PASSAGE IN U.S. ON NORTHWEST FLIGHTS, WHICH ARE THEN
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NOT BEING HONORED. SITUATION HAS BEEN MOST EMBARRASSING FOR NORTHWEST AND INDEED MOST INCONVENIENT FOR TRAVELLERS.

3. DEPT. REQUESTS THAT EMBASSY CONTACT SAA TO EXPLAIN THAT NORTHWEST AIRLINES IS NOT HONORING TICKETS ISSUED BY SAA, DUE TO NON-PAYMENT FOR ISSUANCE OF PAST TICKETS. FYI. NORTHWEST REPRESENTATIVE INDICATED THAT BALANCE OWED WAS

SOMEWHERE BETWEEN DOLS TWO AND THREE THOUSAND. END FYI.
WHEN INQUIRING AS TO POSSIBLE RESOLUTION OF SITUATION
DESCRIBED ABOVE, YOU SHOULD INDICATE THAT REPORTS SUCH AS
THESE DO NOT HELP SAA'S IMAGE AS RESPONSIBLE PARTNER IN
BILATERAL AVIATION AGREEMENTS, WHICH ARE SUBJECT TO PERIOD-
IC REVIEW. VANCE
SUBJECT TEL REISSUED WITH DOWNGRADE OF CLASSIFICATION PER
STATE 081199

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISPUTES, CIVIL AVIATION, AIRLINES, TRADE COMPLAINTS, PASSENGER FARES, AIR FARES, DEBT REPAYMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE071522
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: CMONROE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780147-0362, D780138-0680, D780123-0828
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780346/aaaabmsa.tel
Line Count: 70
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f5ed60c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3265037
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NORTHWEST AIRLINES: PROBLEMS WITH SAA
TAGS: EAIR, BDIS, SY, US, NORTHWEST AIRLINES, SAA, SYRIAN ARAB AIRLINES
To: DAMASCUS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f5ed60c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014